

PUSHING PROFESSIONALISM



Jo Milne-Rowe, the new chair of the IAI, will be using her platform to promote RegAI

Congratulations on the chair position. What will be your key agenda during your time at the helm?

I'll be focussing on promoting Registered Architectural Ironmongers and the professional development of the IAI members. I'd like to see our members notice an increase in enquiries, clients looking for specification advice from a qualified and registered member, clients understanding that by choosing an expert with the RegAI status to guide them with their ironmongery specifications means they will receive the best and most up-to-date advice available.

These clients need to know where to find a RegAI and what difference they can make to their projects. Ultimately I want to see so many more of the thousands of GAI diploma holders becoming RegAI's and continuing with their professional development.

How do you plan to promote the RegAI status? What can the industry do?

There is still a lot of work to be done: we'll be promoting the RegAI qualification with regular presence in relevant architectural and construction journals.

What we need the industry to do is to wear the RegAI letters and badge with pride,

talk to clients about what the qualification means. Help clients to understand just how important it is to stay up to date with industry standards and how quickly regulations can change – especially at such a critical time when ironmongery and fire door safety are under the spotlight.

We have created an architect's guide* which promotes the role of RegAI's in the specification of door hardware. Members can distribute copies to their clients and potential clients and just help to spread the word. At the end of the day, the Institute is its members and self promotion can only help us all.

Gender parity is a key issue in the architectural industry currently: women are leaving, not paid equally and RIBA is launching initiatives to attract women. What are your thoughts on being a woman in the AI industry?

I find the subject of gender a difficult one: when I look at my colleagues and peers, I do not associate their gender with their abilities or professional standing. It's a difficult topic to discuss and the industry pay gap figures are clear and hopefully the gap will close with more women coming into the industry and being credited as deserved.

I personally have not experienced any negativity due to fact that I'm a female. I've always been aware that the industry really is dominated by men, but this has never made it difficult for me to personally progress and I am very happy with the path my career has taken.

At the IAI we have proven that women in the industry are as successful as the men, with a female chair, female vice chair and four female award winners this year. ■

***Specification of Door Hardware – An Architect's Guide is available from the Members' area of the GAI website.**

REGAI: THE MARK OF PROFESSIONALISM

RegAI status is the benchmark standard for architectural ironmongery and one which lies at the very heart of what the GAI stands for – the highest possible standards of education and professionalism. This status requires that every architectural ironmonger is a qualified GAI Diploma holder and has been able to prove that they are fully up-to-date with industry standards, regulations and legislation.

Attendance at Institute of Architectural Ironmongers Branch meetings is an integral part

of being a Registered Architectural Ironmonger within the UK. The IAI currently has branches in the South West, South Central, South East, Midlands, North West, North East, Wales, Hong Kong, Dubai and Ireland (Northern and the Republic).

Earning RegAI status

Diploma holders who wish to become RegAI must register to collect CPD points throughout the calendar year, and then apply for RegAI status at the end of the year having collected the

requisite 10 CPD points. In order to gain CPD points, annual coursework log sheets must be completed. You can access, complete and return these electronically. All CPD activities completed must be recorded on a log sheet.

Find a RegAI

For architects, specifiers and contractors looking to appoint a RegAI, the GAI website contains a list of current RegAIs. Visit www.gai.org.uk/RegAI-locator



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